

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-05 COME-00 EB-12 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-08 DRC-01

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R 042248Z OCT 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5990

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIIS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

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E.O. 1Q652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, UN

SUBJ: ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM MEETS WITH

MALI FOREIGN MINISTER

1. EASUM MET WITH AMLIAN FONMIN SISSOKO OCTOBER 3.
MALIAN AMBASSADOR SEYDOU TRAORE ALSO PRESENT. FOLLOWING ARE
PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS DISCUSSED:
2. AID- SISSOKO THANKED USG WARMLY FOR DEEPLY APPRECIATED
HUMANITARIAN AND OTHER AID TO SAHEL STATES AND IN PARTICULAR
TO MALI. HE WENT ON TO STRESS HIGH IMPORTANCE GOM PLACES
ON CARRYING OUT USAID - SUPPORTED BANAKO - BOURGOUNI ROAD
PROJECT
AS ORIGINALLY AGREED. HE SAID THIS WAS " THE MOST IMPORTANT"
PROJECT IN MALI. SISSOKO AGREED PROJECT COSTS HAVE SKY-
ROCKETED (HE SAID FROM 9 TO 25 MILLION DOLLARS) BUT
POINTED OUT MALI'S ABSOLUTE NECESSITY FOR ROADS TO BRING
FOOD INTO COUNTRY AS WELL AS FOR GENERAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
HE THEREFORE WANTED EASUM RAISE MATTER URGENTLY WITH
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USAID IN ORDER SAVE THIS PROJECT. EASUM RDPLIED HE WOULD

DO HIS BEST BUT EXPLAINED PRESSURES AID FUNDS MUST NOW SUFFER AS RESULT INFLATION, COST OVERRUNS, CONTINUING PARSIMONY OF CONGRESS, ETC. EASUM ALSO POINTED OUT CURRENT DE-EMPHASIS ON INFRASTRUCTURE WITH ASSISTANCE PRIORITIES NOW CONCENTRATED IN AREAS AFFECTING THE POOREST SECTORS OF THE POPULATION.

3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - SISSOKO POINTED OUT LONG TERM GROWTH OF COUNTRY WOULD REQUIRED OPEING OF BAUXITE AND IRON MINES AND BUILDING OF DAM NEAR KAYES FOR WATER TRANSPORTATION AND HYDROELECTRIC POWER. HE SAID MALI NEEDED HELP OF RICH COUNTIRES FOR SUCH VENTURES. EASUM SAID COSTS OF SUCH PROJECTS FAR BEYOND SCOPE OF LIMITED US AID FUNDS. GOM WOULD HAVE TO SEEK OUT PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL FOR SUCH LARGE PROJECTS, PLUS WHATEVER SUPPORT COULD BE OBTAINED FROM IBRD, FED, ETC. WITHIN LIMITS AID FUNDS, HOWEVER, AND WITH HELP OF NEW AID TECHNICIANS BEING ASSIGNED BAMAKO, WE WOULD ENDEAVOR DO EVERYTHING WE COULD TO RESPOND TO MALI'S NEEDS.

4. SOUTH AFRICA - SISSOKO EXPRESSED BELIEF RECENT CHANGES IN MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA WOULD ENCOURAGE SA TO MODIFY ITS INTERNATL POLICIES. HOWEVER, GOM FELT MUCH MORE WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE BY MAJOR POWERS TO SPEED UP PROCESS OF CHANGE. EASUM CAREFULLY EXPLAINED US POLICY TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA, NAMIBIA AND THODESIA, CITING US BELIEF IN DIALOGUE AND PERSUASION AS CONTRASTED WITH CONFRONTATION OR OSTRACISM.

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